



South Carolina Public Health Association

A Brief History

In April 1921, a group of physicians founded the South Carolina Public Health Association (SCPHA) in order to address critical public health issues in the state. SCPHA has since evolved into a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is incorporated under the State of South Carolina and has a current membership of 502 individuals representing diverse groups and disciplines.

Mission & Membership

The mission of the Association is to provide a forum to convene and mobilize public health partners; to provide leadership that promotes personal, community and environmental health throughout the state; to exercise leadership to influence public health policy and advocate for healthy people and communities; and to enhance the scientific learning and professional development of the membership. There are five levels of membership: regular, lifetime, student, honorary, and organizational.

Governance & Officers

Elections are held annually to vote on a president, president-elect, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two of four members at-large. These officers comprise the Governing Council, along with the immediate past president, APHA and SHA representatives, and 10 section chairs (representing the disciplines of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, disease control, environmental health, health administration, health education, health and human services, management support, nutrition, public health nursing, and social work). The Governing Council oversees Association governance and meet monthly to conduct business and direct organizational activities in accordance with an established constitution, a set of bylaws and written policies and procedures.

Strategic Plan

SCPHA has adopted a Strategic Plan with five distinct strategies that provide direction and focus for the Association to achieve its goals in a structured way that can be measured and assessed: Strategy 1: Policy and Advocacy; Strategy 2: Membership and Engagement; Strategy 3: Communication; Strategy 4: Infrastructure and Leadership; and Strategy 5: Image Development and Promotion. Each strategy has one overarching objective that has corresponding “action steps” that guide the Association’s immediate and long-range activities.

Annual Activities

The Association hosts an annual convention in May of each year and a Winter Conference during January, publishes a newsletter, *The Bulletin*, four times a year, and sponsors numerous community activities during SC Public Health Month held each April.